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URGENT

Tel-Aviv, February 16, 2004

Mr. Tanh Q. Nguyen, Patent Examiner, Group Art Unit 2182
US Patent Office, Washington D.C. 20231

BY FAX (703) 872-9306

Re: US Patent Application 09/782,090 "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR EFFICIENT MESSAGING BETWEEN MEMORIES ACROSS A PCI BUS"
Our File: P-181-1

Dear Mr. Nguyen,

For purposes of our upcoming meeting on February 25, 2004 at your office, I would like to discuss the following:

1) It is an object of the present invention to provide an apparatus and a method for more efficiently moving messages from one CPU to another over a PCI bus.

2) Claims 1-33 are pending in this application, and claims 20-33 are withdrawn.

3) The Examiner's objections under Sec. 112 have been reviewed and attached are proposed amendments to the claims.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102

4) The Examiner asserts that claim 1 is anticipated by Daniel. Our analysis of the differences between the present invention and Daniel indicates, specifically, the lack of total read and total write registers, performance differences as per Table 1 of Daniel, and the use of an elaborate credits system by Daniel (Fig. 8) to achieve a performance similar to that suggested by the present invention (Fig. 2).

5) We propose to modify claim 1 so as to focus on a more precise definition of the registers used to accomplish the task set forth by the invention, and the operation thereof, so as to improve performance, while simplifying the implementation over the prior art.

6) The Examiner has rejected claims 2-8 based on Daniel. We propose to delete claims 2-3, 5-7. Claim 4 should be allowed being dependent on claim 1. Claim 8 should be allowed as amended. The Examiner appears to confuse accumulation registers (for example, total read register 260 - Fig. 2) with the read pointer of Daniel (58, Fig. 5). We agree that the read head register may correspond to the RD register (54) of Daniel, however, it should not be confused with the total read register that is not equivalent; to the RD pointer of Daniel.

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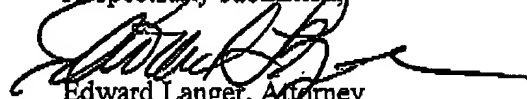### Rejections under 35 USC § 103

7) Based on the changes proposed to claim 1, we believe that claims 10-12 should be allowed.

8) The Examiner's statement that a separator is inherent to a queue system appears to be based on the application of hindsight, since if this were true, Daniel would not have to use the elaborate credit system. Therefore, claims 13-14 should be allowed.

9) Based on the amendments in claim 1 specifically showing that the messages are handled in a distinctly different manner than that suggested by Daniel, claims 15 and 16 should be allowed.

10) Based on the amendments in claim 1 specifically showing that the queue disclosed in the application is not equivalent to Daniel's queue, claims 17-19 should be allowed.

11) The Examiner has rejected claims 9-19 as being unpatentable over Daniel in view of Young et al. While admittedly Young suggests certain pointers and a certain counters, these do not amount to the function of the total read register and total write register disclosed in the present invention.

In light of the substantial differences between the present invention and the prior art cited, we believe the Examiner should reconsider his position, and allow the present application as a patent.

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Langer, Attorney
Reg. No. 30,564